

The Boy, the mole,
the fox and the Horse



Charlie Mackery



The Boy,
the mole,
the fox
and the horse.

This book is dedicated
to my lovely Kent mare,
and my wonderful dog
Belle.



THE BOOK THE MARE THE DOG THE BEAST

Charles Mackay



Hello 

You started at the beginning, which is impressive, I usually start in the middle, and never read introductions.

It's surprising that I've made a book because I've not gone at reading them.

The truth is I read pictures, they are like islands, places to get to in a sea of words.

This book is for anyone, where you are right or right - I feel like the better readers I'd like it to be one you can dip into anywhere, anytime. Start in the middle, if you like. Scribble on it, cross the lines and leave it well thumbed.



The drawings are mainly of a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse. I'll tell you a little bit about them - although I'm sure you'll see things here that I don't, so I'll be quiet.

The boy is lonely when the mole first surfaces. They spend time together gazing into the world. I think the world is a bit like life - frightening sometimes but beautiful.

In the morning they meet the fox. It's never going to be long, meeting a fox if you're a mole.

The boy is full of questions, the mole is greedy for cake. The fox is mainly silent and wary because he's been hurt by life.

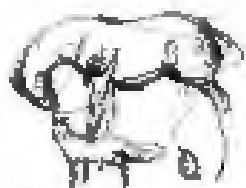


Life



This horse is the biggest thing
they have ever encountered, and also
the gentlest.

They are all different, like us,
and each has their own weaknesses.
I can see myself in all four of
them, perhaps you can too.



Their adventures happen in
Springtime when the warm
sun is falling and the sun
shines the most, which is also
a little bit like life - it can turn
on a dime.

I hope this book encourages you,
perhaps, to live courageously with
more kindness for yourself and
for others. And to use for help when
you need it - which is always
a brave thing to do.

When I was making the book I
often wondered, who on earth was
I to be doing this? But as the
horse says:

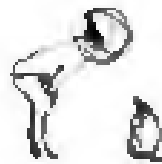


"The truth is everyone is winging it."

So I say spread your wings and
follow your dreams - this book
is one of mine. I hope you enjoy
it and much love to you.

Thank you, Charlie X





"I'm so small," said
the wife.



"Yes," said
the boy,
"but you
make a huge
difference."

"What do you want to be
when you grow up?"



"Kind" said the boy



"What do you think
justice is?" asked the boy



"To love," said the
mole

"Well hello"



"Do you have a favourite
saying?" asked the boy

"Yes" said the mole

"What is it?"

"If at first you don't
succeed have some cake."

"I see  does it work!"

"Every time!"



"I got you a delicious cake," said the note.

"Did you?"

"Yes."

"Where is it?"

"I ate it," said the note.

"Oh."

But I got you another."

"One more?"

"I ate that one, too."

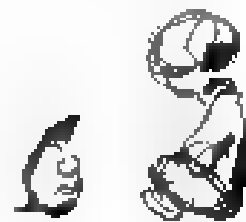
"The same thing seems to have happened."

"What do you think is
the biggest waste of time?"

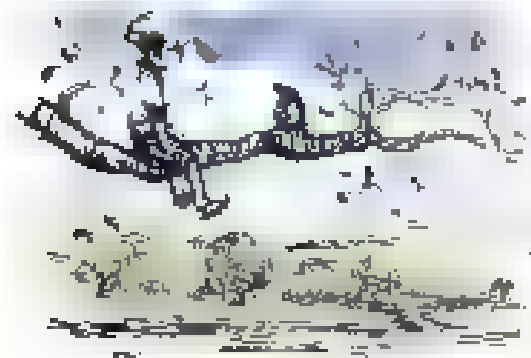


"Comparing yourself to others,
said the monk

"I wonder if there is
a school of unlearning"



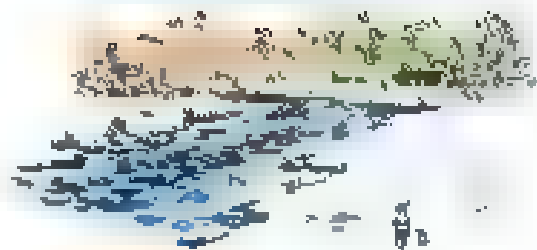
"Most of the old ones
I know wish they had
listened less to their fears and
more to their dreams"



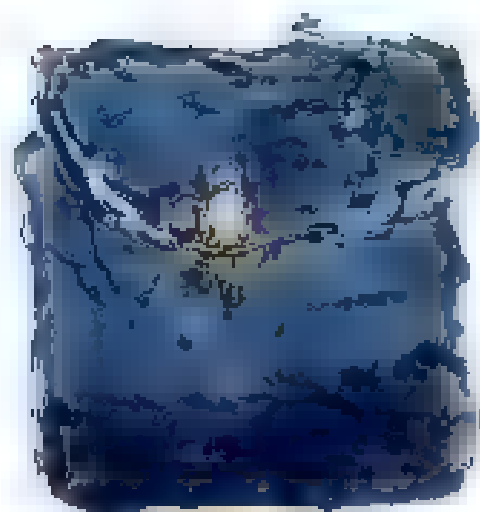
"What is that over there?"



"It's the wind," said the sailor
"Don't fear it."

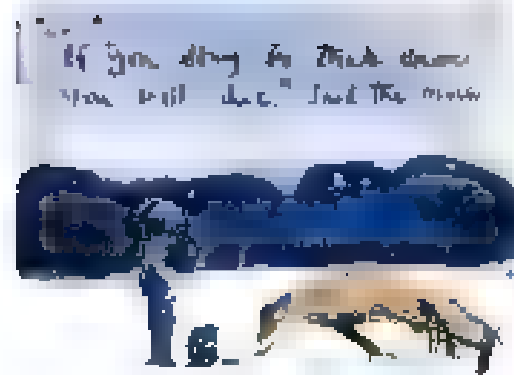


"Imagine how we would be
if we were less afraid."





"If I haven't caught in the snare
 I'd kill you!" said the fox



So the mouse moved through
 the wire with his long teeth



'One of our
greatest freedoms
is how we
read to
things'

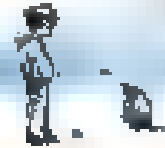




"I've learned how to be
in the present."

"How?" asked the boy.

"I find a quiet spot and
shut my eyes and breathe."



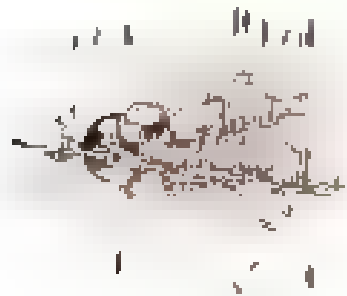
"That's good and then?"

"Then I focus."

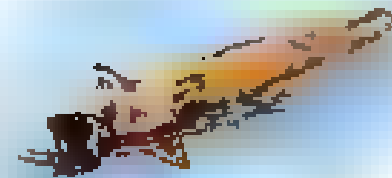
"What do you focus on?"

"Like" said the voice.

"Look it all over and
only see one answer, but
nearly everything happens on
"the inside"

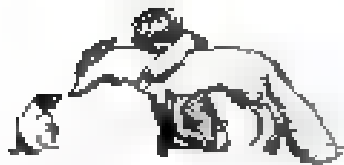


"Be careful not
to fa

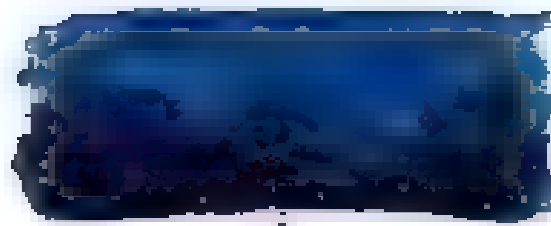


It is





"It's much beauty we need
to look after"



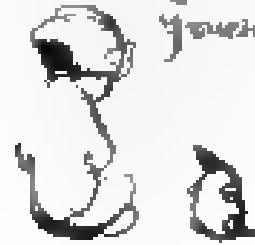
"Being kind to yourself is one
of the greatest kindnesses" I wish
the world



"We often wait for kindness
but being kind to yourself can
start now," said the voice.



"Often the hardest
person to forgive is
yourself"



"Sometimes I feel lost"
said the dog



"He for" said the mother.
"but we love you and
here brings you home."



"I think everyone is just
trying to get home."
Back the whole





"Doing nothing with friends is never
doing nothing, is it?" asked the dog



He said the mole





'You fell - but I've got you'

"Everyone is a bit scared"
inside the house



"But we are less scared
together"

"Tears fall for
a reason and

they are
your
strength
not
weakness."



"What is the bravest thing
you've ever said?" asked
the boy



"Help" said the horse

"When have you been at your
strongest?" asked the boy

"When I have dared to show
my weakness"



"Asking for help isn't
giving up," said the horse



"It's refusing to give up."

"Sometimes I worry
You'll all restless
for ordinary" said
the boy.



"Love doesn't need
you to be extraordinary"
said the mole.



"We all need a man to keep going"
said the boy "What you?"



You there said the fox



"Getting home" said the boy



"Come" said the rider

"I've discovered something
better than cake."

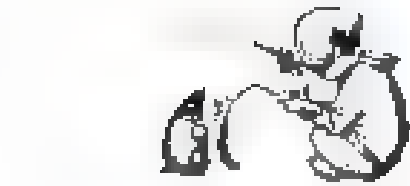
"No you haven't," said the boy

"I have," replied the mole

"What is it?"

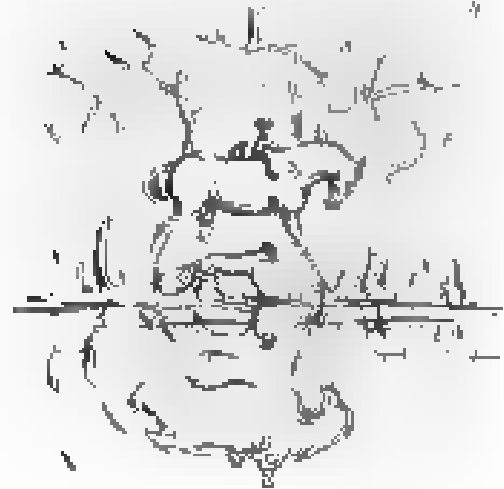
"A hug it lasts longer"





"Nothing looks kindless," said the horse. "It ever quietly keeps all things"

"Sometimes" said the horse
"Sometimes" replied "and for long
Sometimes just getting up
and going on - is
bored and impatient."



"How do they look so
together and perfect?"
asked the boy



"There's a lot of frantic paddling
going on beneath"
said the horse

"The greatest illusion"
said the mule

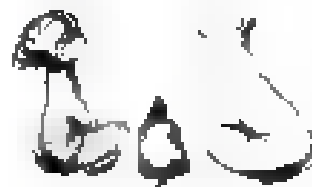


"is that life should be
"perfect"

"Is it the moon?" asked
the boy



"It's a big, big star"
said the mole "and
what fun for the night"



Be Curious

"life is difficult -
but you are loved."



"So you know all about me?"
asked the boy.
"Yes," said the horse.
"And you will love me?"
"Yes," said the horse, "all the more."



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" Sometimes I think
you believe in me
more than I do "
Said the boy



" You'll catch up "
Said the horse

"The fox never really speaks
whispered the boy

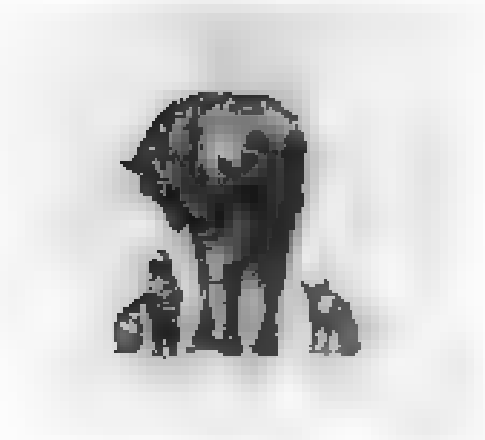


"We stand so longy he is kind us,
said the horse

"To be honest I often feel
I have nothing interesting to say"
said the fox



"Being honest is always interesting,"
said the horse



"There's something I haven't told you"
 said the horse
 "What's that?" said the boy
 "I can fly but I stopped to see
 if made other horses jealous."



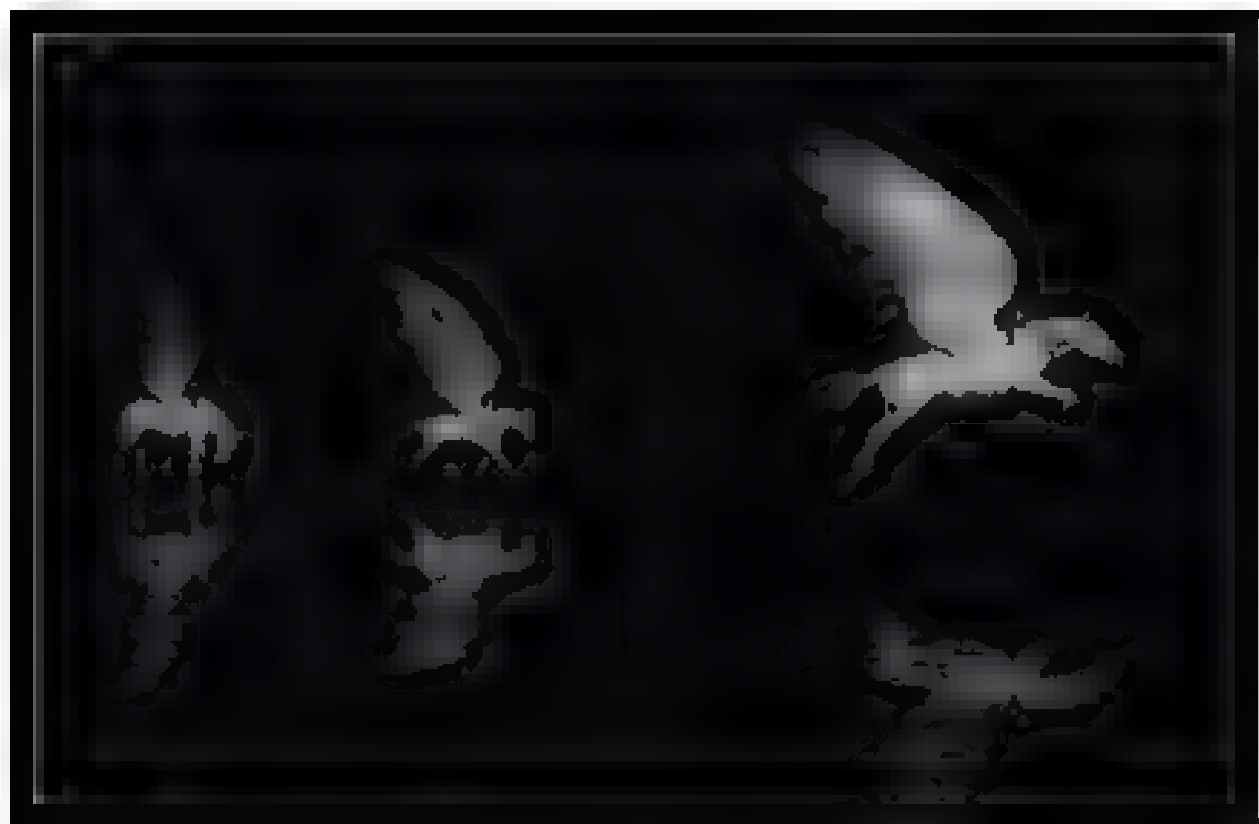
"Hello" - & told you



whether you can fly or not."



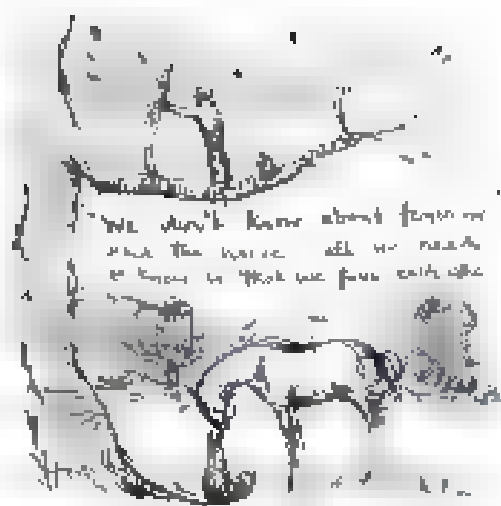
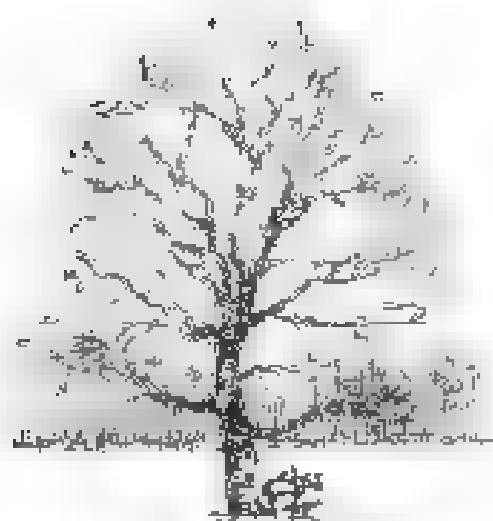






"Is your glass half empty or half full?"
asked the monk

"I think I'm grateful to have a glass"
said the boy





"When the dark
clouds come

keep going"

" When the big things fall out
of control



focus on what you love right
under your nose "



"This storm will pass"



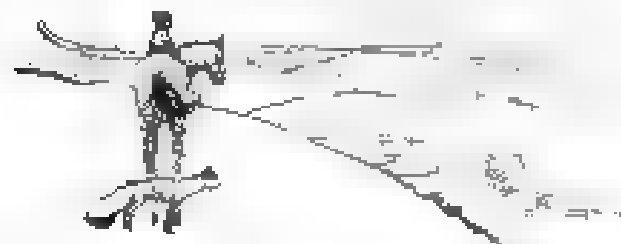
A. W. D.



"We have made a long
way to go" sighed the dog



"Yes but look how far
we've come"
said the lioness





"Sometimes I want to say
I love you all," said the
mum, "but I find it difficult."

"Do you?" said the boy.

"Yes, so I say something like:
'I'm glad we are all here.'"

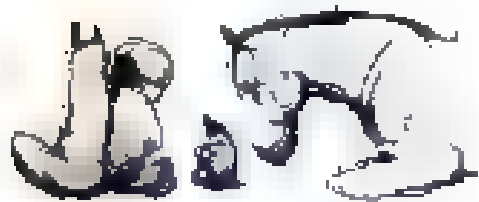
"OK" said the boy.



"I'm glad we are all here."

"We are so glad you are here too."

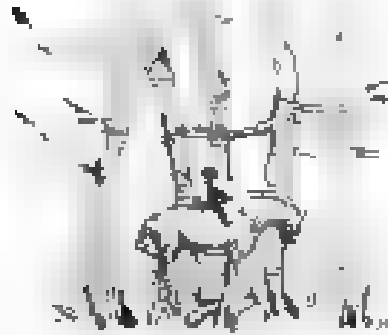
"What's your best
discovery?" asked
the mole



"That I'm enough a
loner" said the
boy



"I've reached my own home"
 whispered the boy
 "for sure," asked the mother



"To love" said the boy.
 "And the mother," said the mother



"What do we do when our hearts
hurt?" asked the boy



"We wrap them with friendship
Share tears and then find they
were hopeful and happy again"

"Do you have any other advice?"
asked the boy



"Don't measure how valuable you
are by the way you are treated +
treat the horse

"Always remember you matter
yourself important and you are
and your being to the world

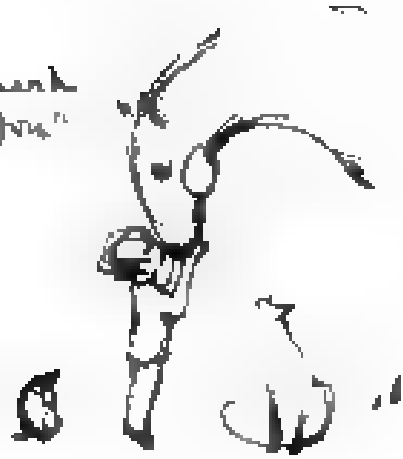


Things no one else can



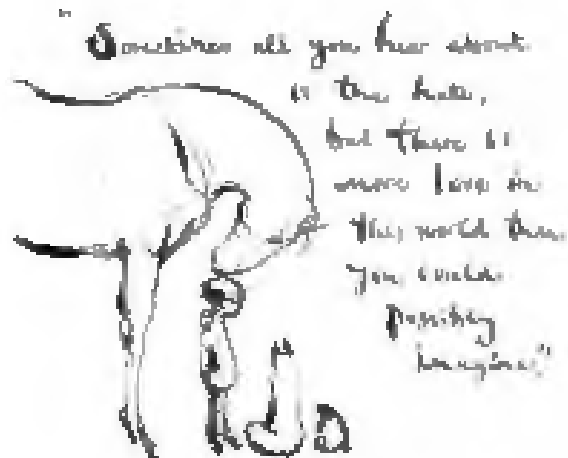
"Home isn't always
a place is it?"

"Thank
you"





~~The end~~
look how
far we've
come



"Sometimes all you hear about
is the hate,
but there is
more love in
this world than
you could
possibly
imagine!"

This book is about friendship and I
couldn't have made it without my
friends. So thank you Matthew, Grace,
Bear, Phil, Miranda, Amy, Emma, Freddie,
Charlie, Elizabeth and Helen to name a few,
whose conversations and loves are so part
of these pages.

Thanks to Colin the brilliant
illustrator who helps see this book
together often late into the night.



Thank you to everyone at Penguin:
Gail, Jo, Tim, Lucy, Lucy, Anna, Kate,
Katie, and especially Laura who so kindly
input with me and my messy drawings.

And thank you so much to you
the reader, reader who encouraged me
with everything.

Thank you Jane, Daisy and Christopher
for your love and endless cups of tea ☺
and to my dogs Billy and Henry as well



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